cularly describing their plans for promoting the growth of small and medium towns to arrest migration to large cities.

In 8th Five Year Plan, a two pronged strategy to arrest migration from rural areas to cities, and to control the crowth of cities, is envisaged as follows:-

(i) Implementation of programmer for generation of more employment opportunities and creation of better facilities for living in rural areas like the Integrated Rural Development Programme; Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Development of Women and Children in the rural areas, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Minimum Needs Programme, etc. (These schemes are implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development).

(ii) Greater emphasis on the development of small and medium towns with a view to increasing employment opportunities and providing urban infrastructure for absorbing surplus rural labour and to provide necessary linkages between the rural hitherland and urban areas.

(b) and (c) Since Urban Development is a state subject, it is upto State Governments to form a specialised cadre of officers for corporation and municipalities an undertake administrative reforms to give better administration to urban areas. However, through periodic consultations with State Governmrnt officials; Ministry of urban Development has been emphasizing the need for human resourcrs planning and upgradation in managing urban development projects. To a certain extent, the Ministry has been helping State Governments in training the urban managers/administrators with management tools and providing opportunities to them to learn from forign visits under bilateral|multilateral aid learn programmes.

The changes initiated through th 74th Constitutional Amendmen would, it is expected; lead to streng thening of municipal bodies throug greater functional drcentralisatio and financial autonomy.

Additional financial assistance to on going irrigation projects

2253. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will th Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state: t

(a) whether the Central Gover ment have agreed to provide add tional financial assistance to th State Governments for complrtio of on-going irrigation projects; an

(b) if so, the details thereof; State wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE II THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVE LOPMENT AND THE MINISTE OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O WATER RESOURCES (SHRI R. K THUNGON): (a) and (b) No, Sir However, as a special case it ha been agreed to provide additiona centra assistance to the extent of Rs. 550 crore for the completion of Sardar Saro var Project to compensate the loss o US $ 165.541 million due to disengage ment of the project from the World Ban Group assistance.

Talks brtween India and Banglades on Gangda water sharing

2254. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will th Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state: t

(a) whether talks were held re cently betwern India and Bangla desh on Ganga Water sharing; an

(b) if so, the outcome there of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE II THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVE LOPMENT AND THE MINISTE OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K

THUNGON): (a) and (b) Talks were hrld in March 1993 on shareing the rvier waters between India and Bangladesh during the meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Committee of Experts. The two sides held in-depth discussions to work for an equitable, long term and comprehensive arrengement for sharing the flows of Ganga, Tista and other major rivers.

Conservation of flood value in the coastal areas of T. N.

2255. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the Tamil Nadu Government for conservation of flood waters in the coastal areas;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken into consideration of joining the flood rivers to be collected and stored up to meet the need of water during drought conditions; and

(c) if not, the reasons thrrefor?..

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) No such proposal has been received.

(b) and (c) A National Perspective for Water Rrsources Development prepared by Government envisages inter-linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers separfatel for transfer of water from water rich basms to water short basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. Government has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 for firming up these proposals. A total of 36 water transfer links 17 under peninsular component and 19 under Himalaya component have been identified by National Water Development Agency.

Construction of Dehang and Subansiri reservoir Projects

2256. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Brahmaputra Board for construction of the Dehang and Subansiri Reservoir projects have been accepted by the Central Government;

(b) if so, when thr projects are likely to be launched; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above in the negative the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (c) Detailed reports for Dihang and Subannsiri projects could not be finalised as surveys and invrstigations could not be fully carried out for want of permission from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

Setting up of National Ground water Institute

2257. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the side Selection Committee for setting up of "National Ground Water Institute has submited its report; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Main recommendations of the Site Selection Committee constitut-